

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 SAJ-01 IO-11 /085 W

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R 171204Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7894

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: PLYOUCHTCH AT FEN CONGRESS

1. THE MOST DRAMATIC MOMENT OF THE FEN CONGRESS (NATIONAL EDUCATION FEDERATION) HELD IN GRENOBLE 9-13 FEBRUARY (SEPTEL) CAME AT THE END WHEN LEONID PLYOUCHTCH APPEARED IN PERSON TO GREET THE DELEGATES. HE HAD A SPECIAL REASON TO DO SO BECAUSE THE LARGEST FEN AFFILIATE, THE UNION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS (SNI), IS UNDERWRITING THE PLYOUCHTCH FAMILY EXPENSES FOR THEIR FIRST THREE MONTHS OF RESIDENCE IN FRANCE.

2. PLYOUCHTCH SPOKE IN HIS ONE TONE BUT STEADY VOICE AND HIS MESSAGE WAS DIRECT, SIMPLE AND PERSUASIVE. AFTER THANKING THE UNIONS AND WORKERS IN GENERAL OF FRANCE FOR THE ROLE THEY PLAYED IN HIS LIBERATION HE CONTINUED "THE STRUGGLE FOR MAN'S

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EMANCIPATION IS NOT CONCEIVABLE WITHOUT DEMOCRATIC

LIBERTIES. THE WORKERS CANNOT FIGHT FOR THEIR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS IF THEY DON'T ENJOY THEMSELVES FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES."

3. WITH REGARD TO THE SOVIET TEACHERS HE SAID THAT WHILE THEIR MATERIAL SITUATION HAS IMPROVED IN THE LAST TEN YEARS THEIR CONDITIONS IN EVERY OTHER RESPECT HAVE GOTTEN WORSE. "THEY HAVE NO FREEDOM OF FAITH," SAID PLYOUCHTCH, "AND IF A TEACHER PRACTICES A RELIGION HE IS FIRED. THEY CANNOT DO ANY CREATIVE WORK BECAUSE THEY ARE UNDER CONSTANT INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT AND HOW TO TEACH. POLICE AGENTS ARE PRESENT IN PARENT-TEACHERS MEETINGS."

4. "HOWEVER," ADDED PLYOUCHTCH, "NEITHER THE POLICE NOR THE PRESSURES AGAINST THE STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF LARGE SCALE DELINQUENCY AMONG THE YOUNG."

5. IN HIS RESPONSE, ANDRE HENRY, THE FEN SECRETARY GENERAL, REAFFIRMED THAT IT IS AN HONOR FOR FEN TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO PLYOUCHTCH'S LIBERATION. HE PROCLAIMED AS ONE OF THE EDUCATORS' IDEALS "TO RAISE THE YOUTH OF TOMORROW IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO MAKE IMPOSSIBLE THE EXISTENCE OF ANY MORE LEONID PLYOUCHTCHS IN ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHO WOULD NEED TO BE LIBERATED."

6. RECALLING THAT THE CONGRESS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN ALSO TO THE VOICES OF LEADERS OF THE EDUCATION FEDERATIONS OF THE CHILEAN CUT AND THE SPANISH VGT, BOTH IN EXILE, HENRY CONCLUDED THAT FEN HAS THUS DEMONSTRATED ITS UNEQUIVOCAL OPPOSITION "TO ALL FORMS OF OPPRESSION AND REPRESSION."

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7. IMMEDIATELY AFTER PLYOUCHTCH'S SPEECH THE ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST FACTION WITHIN FEN DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF AN OPEN LETTER TO HIM IN WHICH, AFTER WELCOMING HIS WORDS OF TRUTH ON THE REPRESSIVE NATURE OF THE SOVIET REGIME, IT STATES THAT "YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS CONGRESS POSES OBVIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IS USED FOR INTERNAL UNION REASONS AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMBATING NOT STALINISM BUT THE REVOLUTIONARY HOPE TO WHICH YOU AND WE ARE ATTACHED." THE LETTER REFERS ALSO TO "THE SOCIALISTS OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL WHO ARE IN POWER IN FRG AND ARE PARTICIPATING IN A WITCH HUNT AGAINST COMMUNISTS AND REVOLUTIONARIES, WHILE IN PORTUGAL THEY ARE PARTICIPATING WITH THE EXTREME RIGHT IN ATTACKS AGAINST PREMISES AND MEETINGS OF COMMUNISTS AND REVOLUTIONARIES."

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ARIES."

8. COMMENT: PLVOUCHTCH'S APPEARANCE IN GRENOBLE RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PRESS AND RADIO-TV COVERAGE. IT WAS PART OF HENRY'S BRILLIANT STRATEGY TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST HIS SIZABLE COMMUNIST OPPOSITION AND TO ASSERT THE AUTHORITY AND SELF-CONFIDENCE OF HIS MAJORITY. THE COMMUNISTS WHO WITH STALINIST RIGIDITY HAD STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED ANY APPLAUSE OF ANY SPEECH OR ACTION TAKEN BY THE MAJORITY FOUND THEMSELVES COMPELLED TO APPAUD PLYOUCHTCH. THE ONLY TIME THEY FELT AT EASE IN SO DOING WAS WHEN

PLYOUCHTCH CRITICIZED JOURNALISTS FOR REFLECTING
THEIR WISHFUL THINKING IN THEIR REPORTS AND NOT
THE HARSH REALITIES. SINCE PLYOUCHTCH WAS NOT
MORE SPECIFIC ON THIS POINT THE COMMUNISTS FELT THAT
THEY COULD INTERPRET THIS AS CRITICISM OF BOURGEOIS
JOURNALISM REPORTING ON USSR. THEY WERE QUICKLY
SET STRAIGHT WHEN PLYOUCHTCH PROCEEDED TO CRITICIZE
LACK OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN USSR. FROM THERE
ON THE COMMUNIST APPLAUSE BECAME LUKEWARM.
RUSH

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